



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Sheets

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Tom Vignato.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2010-0178 Proclamation Recognizing the 2010 Mystic Little League 9/10 Softball All-Stars

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Flax.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

John Valentine, 764 Groton Long Point Road, does not believe that the Town should engage an outside consultant firm to investigate the water infiltration problems at Fitch Senior High School. He feels that the Town and the Town Attorney should hold the original construction contractor responsible for identifying and correcting any water leakage defects.

William Simpson, 600 Meridian Street Extension, Apt. 302, requested repairs to local roads; particularly Bridge Street, Kings Highway, and the corner of Long Hill Road and Colver Avenue.

Louis Franciosi, 64 Hamilton Avenue, stated that he was recently informed by Casey Roan that he is "too old" to be a ranger at the Shennecossett Golf Course. He said that he was told that two younger golfers have expressed interest in being rangers, and that they will be able to encourage golfers to move along more quickly through the course. Golfers want to enjoy their round of golf, and Mr. Franciosi believes that someone younger will not be able to move them along any faster.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2010-0187 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of August 17, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2010-0175 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Christine and William Grady - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Various Donations - \$282.30 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program

City of Groton Matching Funds Check - \$53.22 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program

James Marshall III - \$200.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Joy Johnson - \$40.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Veronica Hanrahan - \$25.00 - Library Discretionary

Various Donations - \$210.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Pam Regnere - \$5.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Becky Sterfather - \$10.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Pat Gothie - \$5.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Pat Russack - \$50.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

Anonymous - \$663.00 - Police Miscellaneous

G. Thomas Couser and Barbara Zabel - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Kim Pollard Peterson - \$28.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Janis and Andreas Mink - \$500.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Various Donations - \$105.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

City of Groton Matching Funds - \$179.78 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0185 Tax Refund

RESOLUTION APPROVING TAX REFUND

WHEREAS, the following, for the reason indicated, has overpaid taxes in the amount specified, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the amount be refunded, be it

RESOLVED, that the tax refunds indicated below are hereby approved.

Ingersoll-Rand - \$2,607.11 - Excess Payments

Ingersoll-Rand - \$41.27 - Excess Payments

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2010-0176 Results of Operations - FYE 2010

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0047 Parks and Recreation Proposal to Partner with US Paralympics

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0163 Acceptance of Road, Open Space and Drainage Parcel at Mill Pond Subdivision

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0166 Supportive Housing Program Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0177 Appointment of Timothy Pratt to the Jabez Smith House Committee

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0179 Acceptance of Road, Open Space and Drainage Parcel at Woods Walk Subdivision

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0186 Additional Engineering Studies for Thames Street Rehabilitation Project

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**a. Town Councilors**

Councilors received an email regarding speed bumps in Noank Village.

Councilor Johnson attended the grand-opening of Mystic Innovations, Inc. He announced that the Groton Elks Club will host a "Law Enforcement Night" on September 11, 2010.

Councilor Monteiro attended Thames Street Review Committee meetings.

Councilor Kolnaski received correspondence regarding the Historic District Commission and a property on High Street in Mystic. She attended a Senior Center Computer Coordinating Council meeting and the grand-opening of Constitution Bio-Fuel LLC.

Councilor Flax received the same email regarding High Street.

Mayor Streeter received communications regarding the acoustics at the animal shelter, the River Road project, and the road conditions on Kings Highway. The Mayor extended his thanks to Joe Sastre, Manager of Emergency Communications, for keeping everyone abreast of weather conditions during the recent storm.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The next regular meeting of the RTM will be on September 15, 2010, at the Town Hall Annex. On August 18, 2010, the RTM voted to have future RTM meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at the Groton Senior Center. This change will begin with the October 13, 2010, meeting.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town will hold a surplus sale on September 11, 2010.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager stated that on September 10, 2010, there will be a "Homeless to Hopeful" benefit dance. On September 11, 2010, there will be a September 11th Commemoration, the Town surplus sale, Law Enforcement Night, and a sunset cruise on the Mystic River. He noted that Children First Groton will host a Community Action Planning/Coming Together for Groton's youngest residents on September 30, 2010.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti**

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

Mayor Streeter stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the last regular Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2010-0047 Parks and Recreation Proposal to Partner with US Paralympics****RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH US PARALYMPICS**

WHEREAS, Groton Parks and Recreation strives to provide quality recreational services to people with various special needs and to include people of all abilities in programs, and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation seeks permission to enter into an agreement with US Paralympics to offer an "official" Paralympics Sports Club open to all members of the community with physical disabilities, with special focus given to members of the military who are returning to the community with injuries, and

WHEREAS, entering into an agreement with US Paralympics will provide access to funding for events, as well as increase opportunities for participants and coaches, training, and marketing, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designee is authorized to enter into an agreement with US Paralympics to offer a Paralympics Sports Club (PSC) targeted at people in the community who have physical disabilities.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0163 Acceptance of Road, Open Space and Drainage Parcel at Mill Pond Subdivision**ACCEPTANCE OF ROAD, OPEN SPACE AND DRAINAGE PARCEL AT MILL POND SUBDIVISION**

WHEREAS, the Mill Pond Estates Subdivision was approved by the Planning Commission on November 13, 2007, and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2010 the Planning Commission recommended acceptance of an 850 linear foot road known as Mill Pond Circle, a 1.8 acre parcel of land for open space and recreation

purposes, and a 0.59 acre parcel of land for drainage purposes, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts the road, open space, and drainage parcel in the Mill Pond Estates Subdivision.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0166

Supportive Housing Program Grant

RESOLUTION APPROVING TVCCA/HUD SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM GRANT

WHEREAS, homelessness is being addressed on several fronts by numerous programs but remains an ongoing problem for Groton and neighboring communities, and

WHEREAS, homeless persons with disabilities and homeless families in which at least one member is disabled require extensive counseling, support and case management services, and

WHEREAS, the Supportive Housing Program, operated by TVCCA as the grantee of record with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, provides funding to enable agencies and municipalities to provide counseling, support and case management services via participation the Housing Collaborative Network, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, to enter into an agreement with Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. to accept grant funding in the amount of \$9000 (or such an amount to be specified) to conduct a Supportive Housing Program in Groton for the period of February 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011 and to utilize said funding to supplant a portion of the salaries and related fringe benefits of selected Groton Human Services staff, who shall provide counseling, support and case management services to the specified Groton client population via participation in the Housing Collaborative Network.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0177

Appointment of Timothy Pratt to the Jabez Smith House Committee

RESOLUTION OF CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF TIMOTHY PRATT TO THE JABEZ SMITH HOUSE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, a Town Council resolution dated September 20, 1994 provided that the Town Manager may appoint members of the Jabez Smith House Committee with the consent of the Town Council, and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager recommends the appointment of Timothy Pratt of 56 Church Street, Noank to the Jabez Smith House Committee, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby consents to the appointment of Timothy Pratt to the Jabez Smith House Committee for a term ending 9/7/12.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0179

Acceptance of Road, Open Space and Drainage Parcel at Woods Walk Subdivision

ACCEPTANCE OF ROAD, OPEN SPACE AND DRAINAGE PARCEL AT WOODS WALK SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, the Woods Walk Subdivision was approved by the Planning Commission on May 24, 2005, and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2010 the Planning Commission recommended acceptance of an 1,100 linear foot road known as Murphys Drive, a 4.79 acre parcel of land for open space and recreation purposes, and a 4.33 acre parcel of land for drainage purposes, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts the road, open space, and drainage parcel in the Woods Walk Subdivision.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0186

Additional Engineering Studies for Thames Street Rehabilitation Project

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING STUDIES FOR THE THAMES STREET REHABILITATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Thames Street Review Committee was established as a broad-based committee to identify why the November 2009 referendum failed; identify potential cost-saving measures/phasing schemes and/or alternatives for the project; and make a recommendation on Thames Street rehabilitation for the Town Council to consider, and

WHEREAS, the engineering firm that prepared the original Thames Street plans, Milone & MacBroom, has been providing assistance to the Thames Street Review Committee in its efforts to evaluate design alternatives and potential cost savings, and

WHEREAS, Milone & MacBroom has submitted a proposal outlining a scope of services that would assist the Thames Street Review Committee in its continuing efforts, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, is authorized to sign said proposal (MMI #2536-10-0), and be it further

RESOLVED, that up to \$25,000 in funding is authorized for additional engineering work by Milone & MacBroom for the Thames Street Rehabilitation Project and that the funds be expended from encumbered funds previously appropriated under the function Executive Management 1010.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Flax distributed the draft "Code of Ethics" document for councilors to review and discuss at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to consider a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to submit an application to the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control for providing community access television was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski and so voted unanimously.

2010-0189

Alternative Funding and Restructuring of Library's Video Services

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL FOR PROVIDING COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION

WHEREAS, for the past five years, Comcast Cable of Groton and Thames Valley Communications have been seeking a third party to provide Community Access Television Service for their franchise areas, and

WHEREAS, the community access provider would be responsible for overseeing the education, government, and public access channels along with providing production space, training and scheduling, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Public Library is proposing to provide Community Access Television Service for the Comcast and Thames Valley Communications video services franchise area through a restructuring of video staff and reconfiguration of its current video service space, and

WHEREAS, by becoming the community access provider, the Town would receive cable and video service subscriber fees for community access that would help offset the Town's current expenditures for the Library's video services, and

WHEREAS, further benefits to the Town include continued management and oversight of the education and government channels, added programming opportunities for the public, and the ability to discontinue the service and return the responsibility to the cable and video service providers, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to submit an application to the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) requesting that the Town of Groton become the Third Party Provider of Community Access Television for the Groton franchise as well as negotiate terms of service with the current cable and video service providers.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Johnson will vote against this resolution as he feels that government should not compete with private companies.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Johnson

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant